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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Alan H. Karp et al.

Flexible Allocation of a

Group Art Unit:

2127

JUL 1 9 2004

Serial No.:

09/687,436

§ Examiner:

Lilian Vo

OFFICIAL

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Atty. Dkt. No.:

10992795-1

(HPC.0160US)

Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION DATED MAY 20, 2004

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action of May 20, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

The Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper. The claims have not been amended by this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.

outer

LV 8/20/04

Dawn L. Thomas

PAGE 2/13* RCVD AT 7/19/2004 1:52:16 PM [Eastern Daylight Time]* SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1* DNIS:8729306 * CSID:7134688883 * DURATION (mm-ss):03-52